

We were aggravated by an article in the Randolph Enterprise, from the pen of Hu Maxwell, in which he casts doubts upon the identity of the Indians who last inhabited the West Virginia territory. He says that he is "not aware of any fact warranting the conclusion that any Mingo Indians ever lived in West Virginia."

In other words, he prides himself upon what he does not know. From the vast sea of human knowledge no one man is ever able to dip up more than a bucketful of facts, so it is easy for the wisest to make a boast of what they do not know.

We are getting out of patience with the historians who will neither admit that the Mingos lived at Mingo Flats prior to their well known habitat at Mingo Bottom six miles from Wheeling, nor account for the site of their town prior to that move. If they did not come from Mingo Flats from whence did they come?

We are ready to do this. We will take the position of the affirmative on whom must fall the burden of proof and debate before a body of intelligent men any place at any time the proposition: That about the middle of the 18th century, to-wit, 1750, the Mingo Indians lived at Mingo Flats and that in numbers they did not then or at any time prior to their westward emigration exceed more than one hundred families.

We would bar as judges those who have committed themselves to the statements that there are no such animals as the Mingos. Just because the northern historians failed to note that a small and insignificant tribe fought a thirty years' war to keep back the tide of white immigration that broke over the crest of the Alleghany, many have said in their haste that there were no Mingos, and the first rule of the historian is to stick to his published statements however mistaken he may be in the facts.

All we would ask would be men who are able to weigh evidence and give proper weight to the circumstances. We feel that the poison of the doubter is about to wipe out the memory and even the identity of the warriors who terrorized our immediate ancestors for a full generation, fighting from the Ohio River to the height of land, knowing every path and trail, and taking toll for their lost heritage. That it is time for those of us who are living to fix the fact that the Mingo was a peculiar West Virginia aborigine, and the one we are bound to perpetuate and preserve in the interest of truth and history.

As the largest audience that we could hope to have would be but a handful compared to the minds that we can reach through the printed page, we will give a short resume of some of the historical evidence that lies at hand and which ought to be accepted without question. Of course if a person will not believe Moses and the prophets he is in such a mulish state that he will not believe though one arose from the dead.

It is a tradition with the Mingos that they are descended from the Eries, who were broken up and destroyed and absorbed into the Senecas in 1656. That was a tremendous slaughter. The Eries were in a stockade and they defied the Iroquois. The Iroquois of which the Senecas were the fighting foals made it a policy of their nation never fail to carry by assault any stockade or fort. In this case the slaughter was fearful but they did carry the stockade and at places human blood ran knee deep. The remnant of the Eries were broken up into parties and settled with the Senecas along the Alleghany Mountain far to the south and became by subjugation Iroquois.

The Senecas were known as the "Keepers of the Great Back Doorway" in the League of the Five Nations, and they never agreed to lay down their arms. In the course of the next hundred years the Senecas successfully held the eastern range of mountains in the United States from the Great Lakes to Georgia. Think of it. As you walk along the street known as Seneca Trail in this town, you are literally treading in the foot steps of great armies of Seneca warriors who policed the mountain barrier and held back the Shawnees and other hostile Indians from the west.

were so far from the sphere of influence of the Iroquois nation that they were corrupted by the Shawnees whose hunting parties came up the Great Kanawha, New, and Greenbrier Rivers, and thus reached the outpost at Mingo Flats and turned them against their own nation. There is no question but they, the Mingo Flat Indians, joined the French in Braddock's war, while the Iroquois remained loyal to England. And there is no question but that the Mingos were living at Mingo Flats in 1755, the date of Braddock's Defeat, for David Tygart and Files wrote in 1754 that they would have to leave the valley for they were close to an Indian village and that it was too dangerous to remain there.

Probably immediately afterwards, the Iroquois drove the Mingos to the west bank of the Ohio and in 1766, their town of 60 families was the only Indian town on the banks of the Ohio from Pittsburgh to Louisville. From that town they made war on West Virginia settlers for nearly a generation. They became famous as warriors and the word Mingo which had been more or less general in its nature became their own peculiar tribe name. The big chief Logan had a good deal to do with adding to the fame of the small but distinctive fighting band.

From Mingo Town of Mingo Bottom, now Steubenville, Ohio, the tribe moved to the headwaters of the Sciota and Sandusky, sold out to the government, moved to Kansas, sold out again, and moved to the Indian Territory, where they are known as the Sandusky Senecas. In 1905 they numbered 366 persons, and have just about held their own since they lived at Mingo Flats.

They fought with the French at Battle of Point Pleasant. Logan did not come in person to treat for peace after that battle but he sent a speech by Col. Gibson. Roosevelt did them an injustice to refer to the Mingos as an mongrel banditti. Mingo was a term used by the eastern Indians for all the Iroquois, composed of five and afterwards six nations. The first name that the Ohio River bore was Black Mingo River. The Black Mingos were the Eries, conquered and absorbed by the Senecas, the military branch of the Five Nations. When the Mingos of Mingo Flats, driven out of the great Iroquois nation, retained their organization for the sole purpose of war on those who dared settle in the West Virginia territory, the colonials gradually restricted the name to mean those few hundred fighting men on the west bank of the Ohio who raided this country for a business, keeping up an alliance with the Shawnees, a powerful confederacy.

Mingo Flats is the extreme head of the Ohio River. There it is a bold trout stream issuing from the Cheat Mountain. It is a historical fact that the tribe that settled near Wheeling lived immediately before that on the head of the Ohio at a place so far distant from the Iroquois center that they were thrown more with the Shawnees and Delawares and were thereby weaned away from their allegiance to the Five Nations. This could not have meant the head of the Alleghany for there they would have been in the heart of the Five Nation. Besides the Alleghany river is not the head of the Ohio. It lacks perhaps a hundred miles of being the uttermost fountain. Mingo Flats is the head of the Ohio and that is the settlement that corresponds to the description of a town on the head of the Ohio River so far distant from the home nation as to throw them in constant contact with the Shawnees, and graves up and down the Greenbrier Valley bear mute testimony to the fact that the Shawnee walked in this valley in the early days. Reference is made generally to the following historical writers on Mingo affairs: Mooney, Bonquet, Rupp, Cowley, Schoolcraft, Harris, Lang and Taylor.

It is twenty-five miles from Mingo Flats to this place, Marlins Bottom. At the time that the Mingos lived at Mingo Flats, there was a fort at Marlins Bottom, in which at times there were as many as 150 soldiers. Without a break since then the writer and his direct ancestors have lived at Marlins Bottom, and we have no reason on earth to doubt the truth and fidelity of our local history. A gentleman in Marlinton remembers his grandmother's story of the war-whoop of the Indian when Baker and twelve others were killed here in the last raid. He can almost make you hear that war-whoop now. He talked with a person who heard it. On the other hand a gentleman from Chicago who once did a history of Randolph County in the space of six days and all very good, having given the work of historical research in Tygart's Valley, a lick and a promise, can only say that he did not find credible evidence of the existence of Mingos at Mingo Flats, and having said the horse was sixteen feet high, he will not retract a word of it.

We can tell you how those fiends in human form got the name of Mingos. When a pioneer returned from the hunt and found his house in ashes and the mangled bodies of his family lying there. In the bitterness of his woe he cried out "Mingo," meaning those nearby hostile Indians who once lived at Mingo Flats and afterwards moved down the river to Mingo Town, and as the years went by the name was written in blood, and no man should forget it. And as far as West Virginians are concerned the name Mingo has the narrow and restricted meaning of one small tribe.

We have taken up more space than we thought to, but we honestly believe that the present generation can come nearer clearing this muddy water than any that may come after us, and that it ought to be done. And in conclusion, we would remind you that names of places is the most reliable as well as the most concrete evidence of a historical fact where the word is not capable of a double meaning. Files creek, Tygart's Valley, Marlins Bottom, Lewisburg, Braddock, and Mingo Flats, each and every one suggest the history of the place and such are never wrong.

Mingo Flats was called Mingo Flats because the Mingo Indians lived there and this is capable of proof beyond all reasonable doubt. Did you all see the West Virginia News last week? Hon. Wm. H. Sawyers stung by certain remarks on bees waxed eloquent for awhile though it became somewhat of a drone about the third column. He proceeded to comb our hair and he made things hum. Bee ware. He insists that our theory of life in the hive is not to be accepted in this country because it is made in Germany. This is begging the question. Facts are like our friend Sawyers—they are stubborn things. In 1893, twenty-seven years ago, we were setting on a deer stand, musing on things in general, and as it happened, we had a copy of the Hinton paper on which the said Sawyers was the brilliant editor. It struck us that in the poverty of material at hand for a country editor that it might add to the hilarity of the Greenbrier Valley to provoke a discussion with the editor, at that time unknown to us. There are a few editors who are susceptible of delightful quarrels, and who are artists enough not to resort to brick-bats for argument. We judged Sawyers to be such a man before we saw him. We began the offensive as soon as we got back to the case by telling the world that if they desired genuine hog-wash to read the Hinton paper. The Hinton man rose to the fly like a hungry trout, and for years and years we fussed backwards and forwards, and as far as we know the honors are about even.

But much water has passed under the bridge since then. The nation has fought a couple of wars, the Democrats elected a President, and the Democrats has become forgetful, and the bottom rail is on top, and the mono rail is no longer used.

We saw Bill last week. He has aged. His chest has slipped down. But he has the same whimsical smile and he still proclaims in a loud voice that the Democratic party and the Presbyterian church can do no wrong. He is a vigorous old man, all right, all right.

He was here at Presbytery where he has what the Scotch called a gangling plea. And he was somewhat dignified, let me tell you. We noticed that it took more room for him to turn in than it used to. We noticed him turn to make a heaving sort of an obeisance to a beautiful young lady, and it reminded us of a four horse team.

We immediately insisted on him proceeding to the meeting and telling the presbytery that it was the roosters that laid all the eggs, as a corollary on his thesis on bees, entitled: "Him; the Queen Bee." This he refused to do.

As to his smoke screen that he throws over the subject in the last West Virginia News that ours is a German theory, we refuse to be involved in that discussion on the ground that it is not germane to the question. But if you want to know where he got all that erudition in discussion the breeding of bees, we can make a shrewd guess that it is a hang-over from the days when he used to debate in the school-house in Greenbrier County the vexed question: Which is the mother of the chicken, the hen that lays the egg, or the hen that hatches it?

The railroads were disorganized last week. More striking. Anything for excitement. Under the new law where the railroads are guaranteed a return of 5-1-2 per cent on the investment, the money that was lost by the tie ups come out of the public treasury. As soon as it gets beaten into the heads of the public generally that every strike on the railroad is a strike against them, the striker will have to hunt a new boarding place when he walks out and refuses to work.

The Californians are going to vote in a May primary between Johnson and Hoover, and the significant thing about it is that they believe that the one that wins that State will be the next president. It may be so. The west holds the balance of power.

Why are some of our wisest Republican friends so crazy about Woody? It is as certain as anything can be certain in politics that he would not be elected if nominated. Senator Sutherland is a receptive candidate for president. There have been plenty of worse men president. Herbert Fitzpatrick has declined to be governor.

To have cliques and factions in the Democratic party in West Virginia is a ghastly joke.

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Shorthorn Cattle Sale. At Falling Spring Stock Farm, Kenick, W. Va., APRIL 28, 1920 beginning at 11 o'clock a. m. I will offer for sale 30 head of cattle as follows: 10 head registered cows and heifers, 1 three year registered bull, Phil's Claudius. 2 registered yearling bulls. 17 head grade cows and heifers. These cattle are mostly direct descendants of the famous Rustic King. The grade cows and heifers well bred, and nothing but registered sires have been used in this herd for 20 years. W. V. WATSON, R. E. Tyler, Staunton, Auctioneer.

Notice. We have oyster shells, grit, little chick food, and chick mash. MARLINTON POULTRY YARD, Marlinton, W. Va.

For Sale. About 1400 feet 2-1-2 3/4 inch water line at 15 cts per ft. About 95,000 used brick; these brick are cleaned and no bats. Price per thousand 6-0-0 cars if moved at once. Also some small buildings. Thorny Creek Lumber Co., Thornwood, W. Va.

Notice. To all persons holding claims against A. T. Moore, deceased, are hereby notified to present the same to the undersigned administrator for settlement. All persons indebted to the said deceased in any way are requested to settle same at once. This 2nd day of April, 1920. S. B. MOORE, Executor of A. T. Moore, deceased.

Glenwood Seed Farm. Field and ensilage seed corn, tested and sold on approval. \$3.50 per bushel. Sacks free. Write for circular. Write for circular. Address: S. W. ANDERSON, Greenlee, Va.

NOTICE Effective May 1st, 1920 Delco-Light Plant Style 216 will advance to \$580.00 Orders received prior to May 1st, will be accepted at the old price for delivery any time. Delco-Light Products L. G. McCLURE, Dealer. Marlinton W. Va.

Valuable Real Estate for Sale. We have a number of nice farms in Randolph and adjoining counties. Some of them near the city of Elkins. If you want to purchase a nice farm close Elkins, write us about what you want, we have it. ELKINS REAL ESTATE COMPANY J. W. Trembly, Manager Davis Trust Co. Bldg. ELKINS, W. VA.

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Our Success IN THE FUTURE depends on our investments today. The erection of a permanent silo on the farm spells prosperity for our children in the future. An investment for them will be appreciated. Why not a MARIETTA, the SIELO of quality, long leaf pine, Oregon fir, red wood, vitrified tile, and think of it, a CEMENT STAVE silo, the real thing, equipped with the famous Marietta red wood hinge door, and a sure enough EXPERT furnished to assist in erecting same. I demonstrate and quote you latest prices. KIRK WEES, Elkins, W. Va. Agt. Randolph & adjoining Counties Breeder of Rose Comb Rhode Island Reds of Quality. Eggs \$5 for 15.

NOTICE TO FARMERS. If you need money to buy land, pay debts, stock land or any other purpose. The Virginian Joint Stock Land Bank of Charleston, W. Va., will lend it to you on five to twenty years time, on small semi-annual re-payments. This Bank has loaned thousands of dollars to the farmers of this county, and it will take care of your needs. For further information, or to make application for a loan, call on or write T. S. McNeel, Hillsboro, or write H. W. Gomstock, Lewisburg, West Virginia, Supervisor of Loans.

Estray. There are four ewes and 3 yearling sheep on the Mt. View Orchard place which have been there quite awhile. The owner can have property by proving same, any paying cost of keep and advertising. J. L. McCue, \$1. Marlinton, W. Va.

Notice. Notice is hereby given to all parties having claims of any kind against the estate of Uriah Heverer, deceased to present the same to the undersigned commissioner of accounts, for the purpose of having the same properly probated and proven, before payment by the Administrator of said estate. Given under my hand this 30th day of March, 1920. P. T. Ward, Commissioner of Accounts.

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